# LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES September 18, 2014 @ 4:00 p.m. MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Thelma Clemons

Mr. Terry Conway

Mr. Skip Daleure

Mr. Jonathan Ricketts

Ms. Susan Rhodes

Ms. Vicki Tabler

METRO STAFF & LEGAL COUNSEL Ms. Deborah Kent, Legal Counsel

Ms. Rhonda Williams, Paralegal

### **Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Ethics Commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Rickets.

# **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Ricketts moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Skip Daleure seconded the Motion, and the minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

### **Advisory Opinion 14-O-003**

The Louisville Water Company (LWC) requested an advisory opinion regarding a discount program for rentals and admissions to its Louisville Water Tower Park to be offered to its board members. Amber Halloran, LWC Chief Financial Officer, attended and spoke. Commissioners Mr. Conway and Ms. Rhodes recused themselves from discussion as having an interest in the LWC program.

Commission members expressed concerns that these discounts could be an unwarranted privilege for board members as the discount program was not grounded in a policy statement justifying the privilege. The Request for Opinion was tabled when Ms Halloran asked to take the Commission's concerns back to the LWC Board and return to the Ethics Commission at a later date.

### Complaint 14-P-005

The Complainant did not appear, and Respondent Margaret Brosko, formerly Louisville Metro Animal Services Senior Manager of Special Initiatives and Communications, was represented by the Attorney Pete Karem. Mr. Karem was allowed to address the commission prior to its

deliberations, and argued the Ethics Code Ordinance did not apply to Ms. Brosko as she was not a Metro Officer based on her job title.

Chairman Ricketts moved to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Daleure seconded. Upon return to open session, the Commission voted unanimously that the complaint would be dismissed for lack of probable cause, and the Respondent's argument that she was not a Metro Officer was rejected because Respondent had the powers of a Metro Officer.

### **Update on Metro Council Government Accountability and Ethics Committee**

The Commission was addressed by Kendall Boyd, Assistant Director of the Metro Human Resources Department, formerly of the Jefferson County Attorney's Office assigned to the Government Accountability Committee. Until his move to HR, Mr. Boyd had been assigned to draft amendments to the Ethics Ordinance in response to a Request for Opinion regarding Metro Officer's duty to seek out potential conflicts of interest.

## Adjournment

Chairman Ricketts made a Motion to Adjourn and Commissioner Conway seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.